

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY-BELLEVUE MEDICAL CENTER
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
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DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

September 12, 1956

OREGON 9-3200

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
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Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

This letter is the first one I'm trying with the new magnetic dictating machine we're just buying so I'll probably be more verbose than ever for the next few days while playing with this toy.

We have no intention of looking into the morphological side of the DAP story. I'm delighted that you think you might do something with it, since I've felt that the results of our experiments were so predictable, on the basis of your work, as to be pretty trivial. Anyhow, I'm enclosing auxotroph M173-25, which has an absolute requirement for DAP and a relative requirement for lysine, and am also sending a salt of DAP which we've recently obtained from Charlie Gilvarg downstairs. The salt contains ~~between 30 and 40~~³⁶ per cent DAP, and its other constituent seems to have no effect on bacterial growth. DAP is not, so far as I know, commercially available, but I'm going to suggest to the California Foundation that they try to prepare some.

Unfortunately, we don't have any DAP auxotrophs in KL2. I doubt that your lysine auxotrophs would do you much good since they would not grow well on lysine if they had a reasonably complete block before DAP.

I also have some more interesting results to report. The trip back from Woods Hole on the Labor Day weekend was uneventful, and a week later, after rather prolonged labor, Liz gave birth to a boy whom we have named Franklin Arthur. Birth weight 7 lb., 13 oz., mother and child doing beautifully, and father deathly scaredth at this extremely noisy, active infant will be a hellion that will leave no peace in the house for many years to come. On the other hand, I always used to think that new-born babies were ugly, and it's amazing how beautiful this one is. All kidding aside, I'm really excited at having a son, and we're hoping Liz will be strong enough so that we'll be able to spend a weekend in late October at our cottage in Woods Hole.

I'm not surprised to learn that you have further evidence that the L forms are simply protoplasts tough enough to proliferate. I'm sure that your few simple observations have wiped out the whole messy literature on protoplasts, and I imagine you'll soon be looking for other problems.

Best regards to Esther, and greetings from Liz and Frankie.

Sincerely,